

THE OFFICE ACTION

In the previous Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Document 2000-235245 ("JP235245"). The Examiner also rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Application 2002/0025157 A1 to Kawakami ("Kawakami").

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP235245 in view of Kawakami and U.S. Patent 6,002,424 to Rapa et al. ("Rapa").

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application.

I. Claim 20 Is Not Anticipated By JP235245

The Examiner has rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly being anticipated by JP235245. Claim 20 recites a camera comprising, inter alia, a high brightness white light LED comprising one of a UV-phosphor or blue phosphor LED. Even if JP235245 discloses all of the remainder of the recited elements of claim 20, it fails to disclose or suggest a high brightness UV-phosphor or blue phosphor white light LED. In this respect, the abstract of JP235245 only discloses a flash containing a plurality of LEDs (41a-41c). It does not disclose the use of high brightness UV-phosphor or blue-phosphor white LEDs. Thus, JP235245 fails to anticipate claim 20.

II. Claims 1-19 Are Not Obvious Over Kawakami

The Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Kawakami in view of Official Notice and/or acknowledged prior art. In this respect, the Examiner states that "[t]he embodiment of Fig. 9 described at paragraphs 0090-0096 shows the claimed invention except for a cover lens over the opening of the housing for the white LED of claim 1 and the reflector of claim 18."

Paragraph 0091 of Kawakami states "[u]nlike the electronic flash **10** of the first embodiment, the electronic flash **70** does not adjust the color temperature and has only a milky-white LED **71**." Claims 1 and 18, from which the remainder of the rejected claims depend, now recite a high brightness UV-phosphor or blue phosphor white light LED. As noted, Kawakami only discloses the use of a milky-white LED. Nowhere does Kawakami disclose or suggest a high brightness LED. In addition, nowhere does Kawakami disclose or suggest the use of a UV-phosphor or blue phosphor white LED. Because Kawakami fails to disclose or suggest the use of such an LED, it fails to render claims 1-19 unpatentable under §103.

III. Claims 1-19 and 21 Are Not Unpatentable Over JP235245 In View of Kawakami and Rapa

The Examiner rejected claims 1-19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP235245 in view of Kawakami and Rapa. Applicants respectfully traverse.

First, there is no motivation to combine the references. To properly combine references under §103 there must be some suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of the prior art. Here, Kawakami and JP235245 both relate to cameras having an electronic flash using LEDs as the flash light source. Rapa, on the other hand, is directed to a dental imaging system. The dental imaging system includes a hand piece that includes an imaging window and a light source. It is true that Rapa

does disclose that the light source may be a white LED. However, the disclosure of Rapa makes it clear that the light source provides continuous low power light for use with the imaging system (see col. 2, lines 46-48). Rapa relates to completely non-analogous subject matter when compared to Kawakami and JP235245. One skilled in the art of cameras and electronic flashes would not be motivated to combine the teachings disclosed in the dental imaging system of Rapa. In addition, the low power LED described in Rapa would not be suitable for use in the electronic flashes described in Kawakami and JP235245.

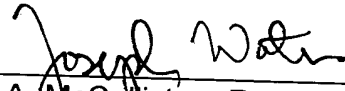
The Examiner states that "[I]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants invention to substitute a single white LED or a plurality of white LEDs for the red, green and blue LED system in Fig. 1 of the Japanese Document, since the prior art teaches that either type may be used for photographic flash purposes." Applicants respectfully disagree. The LEDs in Rapa are not used as a photographic flash. Rather, they are used as a continuous light source to the imaging system. Thus, one seeking to provide illumination for an electronic flash would not look to the dental imaging system of Rapa. Because there is no motivation to combine Rapa with Kawakami or JP235245, such a combination fails to render the present claims unpatentable under §103.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, Applicants submit that claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request early notification of such allowance. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to attempt to resolve any such issues.

If any fee is due in conjunction with the filing of this amendment and response, Applicants authorize deduction of that fee from Deposit Account 06-0308.

Respectfully submitted,
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